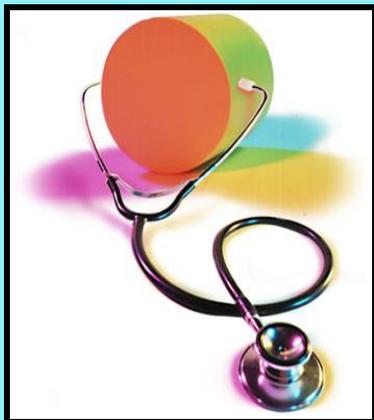# What Students Need to Know about Gerontology Nursing & Career Preparation

Take the Challenge to Make a Difference in People's Lives

How to choose the right nursing program?

- Visit official school websites that interest you for specific guidance on academic prerequisites.
- Take virtual tours of colleges and universities.
- Check tuition, other costs and financial aid availability.
- Go on fieldtrips to nursing schools.

How to prepare for a nursing career?

- Practice good study habits and test taking skills.
- Take rigorous high school courses such as...
  **English   Chemistry   Biology   Algebra
  Physics   Psychology   Computer Skills**
- Graduating from high school with 3.5-4.0 GPA is important.
- Volunteer in a health care setting to get hands on experience.
- Consider becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA).

What do nurses do and where do they work?

- Nursing is a profession based on standards requiring knowledge, skills, and attitudes to assure that patients receive the highest quality of care.
- Nurses work within a "team" of other professionals--physical therapists, social workers, dieticians, and doctors to name a few.
- Nurses have some flexibility in both their hours and working environments.
- Nurses have careers in hospitals, clinics, schools, military, assisted living, nursing homes, public health, higher education, home health and hospice care.

How do students pay for their education?

- ND Long Term Care Association Scholarship - www.ndltca.org
- ND Board of Nursing Education Loan- www.ndbon.org
- Local Health Care Employers
- Federal Nursing Grants, National Health Service Corp., Public Health Programs
- Financial Aid options:
  - North Dakota College Access Network www.nd-can.com
  - Student Financial Assistance Program, State Grant Program, North Dakota Scholars Program www.ndus.edu
  - Bank of North Dakota Student Loan Services www.mystudentloanonline.nd.gov
  - Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) www.fafsa.ed.gov
- HRSA Nursing Loan Repayment Program – http://www.hrsa.gov/loanscholarships/repayment/nursing/

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Why students should consider Nursing?

- Both RNs and LPNs are classified as very high growth, high demand occupations by ND Job Service 2010.

- Average ND RN salary $56,110 and LPN salary $34,810;

- Nursing schools/colleges have several levels of entry based on the program that fits the student's educational, lifestyle and career goals.

- Careers are available in variety of health care settings, in addition to education, research, policy and leadership.

- Options are available to work and go to school at the same time and sometimes tuitions are paid by employers.

- Many types of shifts (8 or 12 hours long) and various rotations including day, evening or nights.

- Nurses may work part-time, full-time or weekends.

What are the education/ license requirements for a nursing career?

- **LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse)** – An LPN provides nursing care to stable patients and clients. They work under the direction of the RN, APRN (Advanced Practice RN), or physician.

  - 1 or 2 year Program

- **RN (Registered Nurse)** – An RN is a nurse holding an Associate, BSN, or Hospital Diploma degree who is licensed to practice nursing by the state authority after qualifying for registration.

  - **Associate Degree Nurse (ADN or ASN):** A two year curriculum based on liberal arts and biological sciences and integrates nursing content and clinical experiences.

  - **Bachelor of Science Nurse (BSN):** A four year curriculum based on liberal arts and biological sciences and integrates nursing content and clinical experiences, with a sound foundation for advanced graduate education.

  - **Master of Science (MS):** A two year graduate education that prepares the BSN student for an advanced practice role.

  - **Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP):** A four year graduate education that prepares the MS student to focus on advanced nursing practice.

  - **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD):** A four year education that prepares the MS student to focus on nursing research, teaching, administration, and social policy, etc.

  - **Gerontology Nursing Certification:** Validation of RN knowledge and competency in gerontology nursing through successful completion of a comprehensive examination and achievement of other relevant benchmarks', such as RN licensure and successful clinical experience in their specialty area.

  ** **Note:** *Requirements & length of academic programs may vary by colleges*

Job (*Employer policies may vary*)	LPN	2-year ADN	4-year BSN	Master's Degree (Plus 2-4 years)	PhD (Plus 4-6 years)
Mental Health Nursing	X	X	X	X	X
Emergency Room Nursing	X	X	X	X	X
Nursing Home Nursing	X	X	X	X	X
Home Health Care Nursing	X	X	X	X	X
Public Health Nursing			X	X	X
Nursing Leadership	X	X	X	X	X
Nurse Practitioner				X	X
Nurse Administrator			X	X	X
Nurse Anesthetist				X	X

Visit - www.ndsu.edu/pin for list of nursing schools in North Dakota

Modified November 14, 2013